Sale of bottled water in hotels

*179. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted a Sub-Committee which has recommended fine on hotels and other establishments selling bottled water at a very high premium;

(b) if so, what the recommendations of the Committee;

(c) what is the average price being charged in various star-category hotels in Delhi;

(d) whether Government have already imposed penalty on some hotels for overcharging the customers; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) The Standards of Weights and Measures (Packaged Commodities) Rules, 1977 require declaration of retail sale price on the package or on a lable affixed to the package in the form 'Maximum Retail Price... (Inclusive of all taxes)'. Selling of the package at a price higher than MRP is prohibited under the Rules and attracts penal provisions. Enforcement of the provisions of the Rules rests with the State authorities. A statement of action taken by the enforcement authorities in the States is enclosed. *(See* below) However this is not a price control mechanism. The quantum of MRP so declared is left to the manufacturer and the Government have no say in the matter. Delhi Government have informed that the selling price of bottled water in Hotels various from Rs. 15 to Rs. 55/-.

Statement

Details of the action taken by the states since 2002 *for selling bottled water in hotels at a price higher than MRP*

State	No. of cases booked	No. of cases compounded	Compounding fine in Rs.	MRP declared in Rs.	Price charged in Rs.
Andhra Pradesh	31	29		10	13-20
Goa	2	2	4000	12	14-15
Karnataka	29 cases	21	54000	12-15	13-76
Kerala	24	24	NA	12-20	14-22
Tamil Nadu	Nil	—	—	—	—
Lakshadweep		17	30500	7-12	10-25
Pondicherry	Nil				
Gujarat					
Madhya Pradesh	Nil	Nil	—	—	—
Maharashtra	37	29	88500	10-30	12-31
Rajasthan	1	1	3000	15	25
Daman & Diu					
Dadra and Nagar Haveli	—	—	—	—	—
Haryana	5	2	2700	NA	NA
Himachal Pradesh	Nil	—	—	—	—
J&K	—	—	—	—	—
Punjab	5	4	20000	NA	NA
Uttar Pradesh					
Chandigarh Admn.	3	3	NA	10-14	15-20

State	No. of cases booked	No. of cases compounded	Compounding fine in Rs.	MRP declared in Rs.	Price charged in Rs.
Delhi	10	8	33000	10-12	15-55
Arunachal Pradesh	Nil	—	—	—	—
Assam	—	—	—	—	—
A.N. Islands	Nil	—	—	—	—
Bihar	—	—	—	—	—
Meghalaya	Nil	—	—	—	—
Manipur	Nil	—	—	—	—
Mizoram	Nil	—	—	—	—
Nagaland	—	—	—	—	—
Orissa	—	—	—	—	—
Sikkim	—	—	—	—	—
Tripura West Bengal	1	1	5000	10	35

Procurement policy in States

*180. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have agreed to adopt relaxation policy in Orissa as in other States to procure paddy due to non-availability of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) paddy in the States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this policy is to be implemented during the procurement of Rabi Crops in the current fiscal year;

(d) whether the farmers of the State who were forced to distress sale of paddy last, have been compensated;